THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

November/December 1984

CONSERVATION, STATE BY STATE

Susan Bournique

End the year with a gift for all seasons—

a gift to the General Fund.

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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COVER: Barn owl—by day. This handsome bird, once familiar in farmyard and field, has declined in parts of its range owing to modern land-use practices. Photo by Gary Meszaros.

The Nature Conservancy is a national conservation organization committed to the preservation of natural diversity by protecting lands and waters supporting the best examples of all elements of our natural world.

To date the Conservancy and its members have been responsible for the preservation of 2,282,235 acres of forests, marshes, prairies, mountains, deserts, and islands: home to rare and endangered species of wildlife and plants. 3,483 projects have been completed since the acquisition of the first preserve in 1954. Approximately 60% of all preserves are retained by the Conservancy and managed by staff and volunteer land stewards.

A membership organization, the Conservancy was incorporated in 1951 in the District of Columbia for scientific and educational purposes. The Nature Conservancy is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is a publicly supported organization as defined in Sections 170(b)(1)(vi) and 509(a). All contributions are tax deductible.

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The Nature Conservancy

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A State-by-State Protection Strategy

By John Flicker
Vice President for Protection Programs

IT WAS 1971. The Conservancy's Minnesota Chapter had identified five important natural areas in need of protection. Acquiring the sites was the sole solution, but the chapter faced several obstacles, all of them financial.

First, some of the projects lacked fund-raising appeal because they were not large enough to attract the attention of major donors. At the same time, most of the projects were in northern Minnesota, while the greatest potential sources of funds were in the southern part of the state. Finally, even if the acquisition costs were secured, there would be nothing left over for stewardship—the requisite day-to-day care of all Conservancy preserves.

The overall concern was that only lands with marketing appeal close to the Twin Cities metropolitan area would draw support and, even then, the money would go solely towards acquisition costs. At that time, the conventional belief was that money could be raised to buy land but not to manage it.

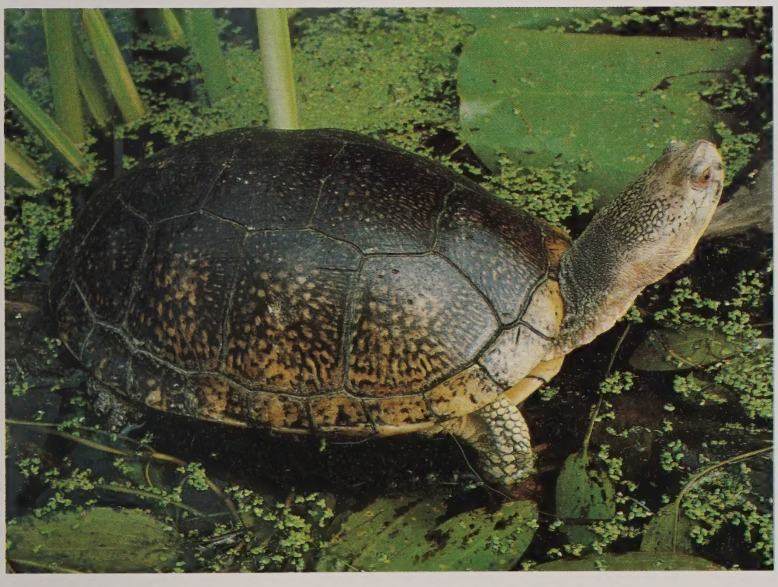
In the early '70's, the Conservancy was experiencing a period of significant growth and increased activity nationally. Our business was evolving from simply buying isolated tracts of land to systematically preserving the most ecologically significant sites—the critical areas—of an entire state. We were beginning to view projects in the context of a larger network of natural systems that collectively represent the state's biological diversity.

Recognizing this evolution in the Conservancy's approach, Minnesota Chapter members proceeded to bundle those five projects into the Conservancy's first statewide critical areas campaign. The fund-raising goal was $165,000, far exceeding any previous amount targeted for an individual project. Most notably, 15 percent of the campaign goal was earmarked for stewardship—another Conservancy first. Previously, any funds for preserve management had been raised separately from those for acquisition or simply had not been raised at all.

Owing to the success of its first critical areas campaign, the Minnesota Chapter kicked off its second such effort in 1973. This time eight projects were charted for protection at a combined cost of $250,000. Again, 15 percent was stamped for stewardship. About every two years since, a new and larger campaign has been launched culminating in a $1.68-million program now nearing completion. In 1977, the stewardship component of the campaign goal was increased from 15 percent to 25 percent. Today the chapter's $700,000 stewardship reserve covers most of the expenses of managing the Conservancy's system of 70 Minnesota preserves.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS, particularly about how to increase land-saving resources, rarely lie idle in the minds of Conservancy chapter members. By 1980, other state chapters and field offices were implementing the critical areas campaign ap-

Jim Brandenburg



Gary Meszaros

Beneficiaries of the exemplary Minnesota Critical Areas Campaign: Wilson's phalarope (above), which breeds at the Conservancy's Western Prairie Preserve, and the rare Blanding's turtle, which nests at Weaver Dunes.

proach and adapting it to their particular needs. (Major matching funds for many of the campaigns were provided by the Goodhill Foundation, which helped shape the Conservancy's $45-million National Critical Areas Conservation Program, now in its second phase.)

Members of the Conservancy's chapter in Hawaii tied related projects across the state together in a single campaign with a unifying theme—the Endangered Hawaiian Forest Bird Project, undertaken in 1981. The ongoing program's $3-million goal far exceeds any previous effort there.

Since then, many of the Conservancy's state programs have surpassed the previous limits of their fund-raising ability through ambitious critical areas campaigns. Oregon, Maine, Pennsylvania, and Ohio rank among the most successful. The New Mexico Critical Lands Campaign, begun in 1983, won protection for sites supporting the two most endangered cacti in the world, a cave harboring the Southwest's largest population of Mexican free-tail bats, a riparian desert oasis nourished by 13 springs, and habitat for the nationally threatened Chihuahua chub.

But it was in California that the Conservancy set a new standard for vision within the organization. Thanks to leadership grants from foundations, corporations, and individuals, the California Chapter last year completed its three-year, $15.5-million critical areas campaign to save superior examples of the state's 11 most endangered ecosystems.

Major critical areas campaigns are currently under way in a number of other states, including Michigan, Maryland, Connecticut, and West Virginia. And during 1984, new campaigns were launched in Iowa, New Jersey, and Virginia. In Iowa, the chapter has pinpointed 14 of the state's most ecologically significant natural areas for protection through its $1.6-million program. Selected sites include the nation's best algific (cold-air) talus slopes, alkaline prairie/wetland communities, floodplain forests, and the state's highest quality prairie parcels. Each of the programs—new and old—represents countless hours of planning, preparation, and hard work. In addition, the goal of each eclipses that of any previous fund-raising efforts in those states.

THE PROBLEMS confronting the Minnesota Chapter in 1971 were not unique to that state. Every Conservancy chapter or field office experi-

Carl Kurtz

A galaxy of rough blazing stars at Mark Sand Prairie, one of 14 "critical areas" slated for protection under the Conservancy's new Iowa campaign.

Buddy Jensen

Richard Dewey

Two Southwesterners whose habitats are safe thanks to the New Mexico Critical Lands Campaign: the nationally threatened Chihuahua chub (above) and Knowlton's cactus, one of the two most endangered cacti on Earth.

ences some variation on these concerns, and critical areas campaigns are a tried and true solution. At the same time, natural heritage programs (Conservancy-designed inventories that catalog a state's or region's ecologically significant "elements" and their occurrences) are providing the Conservancy with the information we need to determine exactly what plants, animals, and natural communities to protect in a given state. Then, through our preserve selection and design process, we can begin to draw the desired boundaries for preserves to safeguard those species or communities. With this data, we can make a reasonably intelligent estimate of the total cost of preserving the biological diversity of a given state.

This abundance of information presents a challenge that was almost beyond the imagination of the Minnesota Chapter back in 1971. Today, in those states where we have sufficient knowledge of what is rare and endangered so as to estimate the total cost of protecting it, the figures outstrip our historic ability to raise money—even with our ambitious critical areas campaigns. At our current rate of fund raising, we *cannot* get the job done. We need new approaches.

Indiana has been the first state to initiate one such new approach. With a list of targeted sites based on Indiana Heritage Program data, the chapter determined that it would require approximately $10 million to complete the job of preserving the state's most jeopardized species and natural communities. Instead of using a traditional critical areas campaign, the chapter approached Governor Robert D. Orr and the Indiana legislature with the idea that the state match the Conservancy's private fund-raising efforts with public appropriations. Governor Orr and the legislature challenged the Conservancy to launch just such a program. Earlier this year, legislation was enacted creating the Indiana Natural Heritage Protection Campaign—a joint public/private undertaking. The State of Indiana has agreed to match private fund raising by the Conservancy on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to a combined total of $10 million. The drive includes a permanent stewardship fund to manage protected lands.

This issue of *The Nature Conservancy News* highlights the new Indiana effort, as well as most of the Conservancy's other critical areas campaigns. Some are completed, some are nearing completion. We wish to share their success stories with our members and supporters. Other state drives are newly launched or ongoing, and even chapters and field offices with concluded programs are laying plans for fresh, more ambitious ventures. The goals of our future state or national campaigns—in whatever form they may take—cannot be achieved without our members' continued support.

Critical areas campaigns: Minnesota had the notion; California showed us how inspiring that notion could become. Now, in Indiana we are seeing the newest generation of creative fund-raising efforts. Enterprising approaches, such as the history-making cooperative endeavor in Indiana, are essential if the Conservancy is to raise the substantial funds needed to pursue and achieve its bold conservation agenda.

Endangered Hawaiian Forest Bird Project

HAWAII'S native wildlife is exceptionally fragile. Perhaps the endemic forest birds have suffered most: of 58 species and subspecies known in 1800, 21 are now extinct; another 19 are listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In fact, more birds face possible extinction in Hawaii than in any other area of similar size on Earth.

In 1981—with assistance from the Conservancy's national office—Hawaiian landowners, scientists, and community and business leaders formed The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii and initiated the $3-million Endangered Hawaiian Forest Bird Project. The project's objective is to assist the people and government of Hawaii in establishing and maintaining a network of preserves that will ensure the survival of the islands' endangered forest bird species.

The Conservancy launched its statewide campaign specifically to pay for the purchase and management of five preserves (Waikamoi, Kamakou, Hakalau, Kaluahonu, and Kipahulu Valley) totaling 12,500 acres on four islands. With $2,280,000 contributed to the campaign thus far, the Conservancy already has secured the five areas. However, their future cannot be ensured unless The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii raises the remaining $720,000 by the end of 1984—funds needed for proper protection and management of each preserve.

C. Kepler

Kamakou Preserve

Steven Croy

Pyxie moss, Zuni Pine Barrens

Conserve Virginia Campaign

MANY OF VIRGINIA'S rarest natural systems are in danger of permanent destruction. They range from Chesapeake Bay wetlands to habitat for the globally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker to a stretch of the Clinch River that scientists have identified as perhaps the planet's richest in freshwater mollusk fauna. To preserve 30 of the state's most critically endangered natural areas, the Conservancy's Virginia Chapter has commenced a five-year, $5-million campaign. The effort is aimed at raising $1.5 million of the total in the next two years.

Last spring, at ceremonies inaugurating the program, Virginia Governor Charles Robb announced that the Union Camp Corporation had just made yet another generous donation to the Conservancy: the Zuni Pine Barrens, a 318-acre property on Virginia's Blackwater River in Isle of Wight County. One of only two pine barren habitats left in Virginia, the gift was an impressive "kick-off" for the new campaign. Governor Robb went on to say that the Conserve Virginia Campaign "could not have come at a better time, nor could it be directed toward a more important cause in environmental conservation."

Indiana Natural Heritage Protection Campaign

CONSERVANCY efforts in Indiana have contributed substantially to the state's system of nature preserves, which now embraces more than 10,000 acres. During its 1984 session, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law enabling the Indiana Department of Natural Resources essentially to complete this system within a decade. The legislation—the first of its kind in the U.S.—spurred creation of the $10-million Indiana Natural Heritage Protection Campaign, a model joint effort of the Conservancy and the state to protect the best that remains of Indiana's biological endowment. The campaign's success depends largely upon the Conservancy's ability to raise $5 million from private donations—a total that will be matched by public resources.

Species and habitats nominated for preservation under the campaign will be those targeted by the Indiana Natural Areas Registry, the Conservancy's first "voluntary protection" program. (The registry's list is based on data gathered by the Indiana Heritage Program.) The legislation also provides for the creation of a trust to cover stewardship costs for sites acquired as part of the innovative new campaign.

Gary Meszaros

Spider lilies, Twin Swamps

Mary Droege

Great Duck Island

Maine's Islands of Life

INSPIRED and encouraged by the generous support of a few dedicated friends who pledged to match, dollar for dollar, all gifts to the effort, the Maine Chapter's "Islands of Life" campaign has enabled the Conservancy to protect eight spectacular sites in the Pine Tree State. Among them are Ship Island, Northwest Head, Mistake Island, Woodland Bog, and Larrabee Heath—scenic lands and habitat for Maine's rarest plants and wildlife.

Last June, having successfully met the drive's $610,000 fund-raising goal (set in August 1983), the Maine Chapter extended its campaign and reset its sights at $670,000. This occurred just as the Conservancy was securing an option on another Maine treasure—one of the few private inholdings on Bois Bubert Island. (The Conservancy protected 90 percent of the untouched coastal isle in 1978 and transferred it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for management as Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge.) By expanding its "Islands of Life" campaign, the Maine Chapter made possible Conservancy purchase of one-fifth of Bois Bubert's private holdings. The new parcel includes 700 feet of frontage on the island's western shore.

The latest news from Maine is a new chapter drive to acquire Great Duck Island, home to 30,000 Leach's storm petrels—the largest known colony in the East. Having signed a contract to purchase the 245-acre island, the Conservancy must now raise $475,000.

Gary Braasch

Borax Lake

Oregon Critical Areas Campaign

CREATED IN 1982 to raise $1.5 million, the Oregon Critical Areas Campaign made such a strong start that its goal was upped to just over $2 million. One of the most comprehensive efforts ever initiated in the state, the intensive three-year conservation program has focused on 18 species and natural communities that Oregonians are in imminent danger of losing.

Under the auspices of the campaign, the Conservancy has compiled an impressive list of conservation victories: half of Downey Lake—a mid-elevation, spring-fed lake that is the only protected aquatic system of its kind in eastern Oregon—and an adjacent 200 acres of extremely rare Palouse grassland; Eight Dollar Mountain, bearing the only known occurrence of the large-flowered rush lily; Wren Prairie's red-fescue dry grassland, a Willamette Valley habitat now reduced to a few small parcels; spring-nourished Borax Lake, home of the federally listed Borax chub; and two tracts in the Agate Desert hosting a newly discovered plant species.

Although the Oregon Critical Areas Campaign is slated for completion by the end of 1984, the chapter must still raise $713,531. The money is needed to save the rest of Downey Lake and to acquire the state's last parcel of Lemmon's needlegrass, a community once thought extinct but rediscovered by Conservancy botanists in 1982.

Geoff and Marie Pampush

White pelicans

Minnesota Critical Areas Campaign

PIPING PLOVERS, Blanding's turtles, black-soil prairies, marbled godwits, dwarf trout lilies, calcareous fens, Dakota skipper butterflies, algific talus slopes, five-lined skinks. . . . These are some of the rare species and jeopardized ecosystems the Minnesota Chapter has protected through its most recent critical areas campaign, initiated in 1981. With its current goal of $1.68 million nearly reached, the effort is approaching completion. Its deadline date is New Year's Eve, 1984.

The chapter can boast a series of fund-raising victories, beginning with its first statewide drive in 1971. The success of that initial attempt to "package" several projects into a single fund-raising program—rather than securing funds for one project at a time—led to new and broader campaign approaches in Minnesota and a raft of other states. Moreover, the Minnesota Chapter was the first to include stewardship costs in its campaign for critical areas, a prerequisite to their permanent preservation.

Jeffrey Lang

Five-lined skink, Blue Devil Valley Preserve

Clay Taylor

Yellow-crowned night herons and snowy egret, Chimon Island

Connecticut Critical Areas Program

THE CONNECTICUT CHAPTER launched its three-year critical areas program in mid-1983. Twenty-five biologically vital sites across the state have been targeted for protection through the $3.1-million campaign. In addition to an agenda for safeguarding these properties through a variety of private means, the effort incorporates a permanent stewardship fund, a science fund to conduct ecological inventories and continue field investigations, and a permanent revolving fund to acquire lands likely to be threatened by development.

On the strength of pledges, the Conservancy exercised its option in early September to buy 70-acre Chimon Island, the centerpiece of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. Chimon is the site of the state's most significant heronry, the largest such rookery in Long Island Sound. (Just as this *News* issue was going to press, the Conservancy received word that the U.S. Congress had approved creation of the Connecticut Coastal National Wildlife Refuge, which will include Chimon Island.) Under the Connecticut program, the Conservancy also has been given two parcels of land that make up the Walter D. Allen marshlands—feeding ground for the Chimon Island herons. And, it has acquired 30 acres at Benton Hill Fen (an unusual calcareous wetland with a rich and diverse flora), as well as several conservation easements needed to protect the Moore Brook watershed.

Larry Serpa

Marin dwarf flax, Ring Mountain

California Critical Areas Program

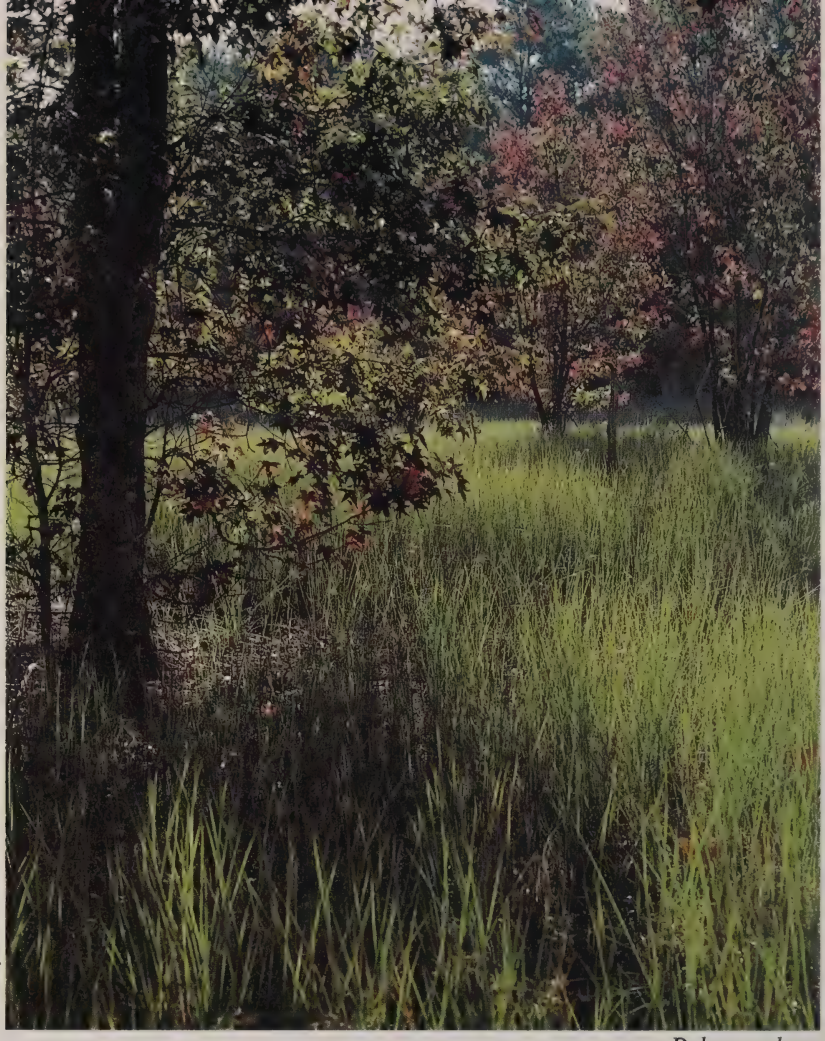
GUIDED BY the findings of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (a natural heritage program established in 1979 in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game), the Conservancy's California Field Office has managed to safeguard more than 16,000 ecologically critical acres—habitat for 54 rare species or natural systems. The list of protected areas features Vina Plains, Kaweah Oaks, Ring Mountain, and Santa Rosa Plateau, as well as additions to Baldwin Lake and Paine Preserve.

This success story is a product of the $15.5-million California Critical Areas Program. Initiated in 1980 and completed in the final hours of 1983, the effort was undertaken to protect 11 of the state's most endangered biological communities. With its current portfolio of 11 "critical area" sanctuaries in California, the Conservancy has indisputable evidence that it can set its goals high and meet them.

A new statewide campaign, the California Wetlands Program, was recently inaugurated with the creation of the Coachella Valley Preserve—part of an extraordinary desert aquatic system near Palm Springs. Its preservation was made possible with a generous grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation. Other areas targeted for protection through the campaign include the Amargosa River, Soda Lake, and the Cosumnes River (where the Conservancy already has acquired 85 acres).

Tupper Ansel Blake

Cosumnes River



Wayne Klockner

Delmarva bay

Maryland Natural Areas Campaign

SIX SCIENTISTS spent two years combing the Maryland countryside, searching for the state's rarest plants, wildlife, and ecosystems. Although their findings show that much has been lost, they also pinpoint 18 exemplary unprotected natural systems—areas that the Conservancy seeks to purchase and manage. These sites range from ancient boreal bogs to shale barrens and forests underlain by limestone to habitat for the world's largest population of a rare wildflower. To save these and other invaluable natural areas, the Conservancy's Maryland Chapter increased the fund-raising goal of its statewide campaign—undertaken in mid-1982—to $1.56 million. Most of this amount has been garnered through donations and pledges, but the chapter still must raise $200,000 by December of 1985 to ensure the preservation of all 12 sites.

Thanks to the Maryland Natural Areas Campaign, the Conservancy has to its credit the protection of all or parts of three Delmarva bays (geologically mysterious inland wetlands supporting uncommon plant communities), land encompassing the entrances to two caves that house Indiana bats (federally listed as endangered nationwide), and a glade bearing one of the most botanically heterogeneous mountain peatlands of its type on the Allegheny Plateau.

Pennsylvania Land Protection Program

UNDER CONSERVANCY care since 1956, the virgin woodland of Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest in eastern Pennsylvania. Through its first critical areas campaign, launched in 1981, the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter completed its assemblage at Woodbourne—649 acres featuring several clear streams, ten-acre Cope Pond, nine salamander species, an alder swamp and its feeder springs, in addition to the preserve's uncut hemlock and northern hardwood forest.

Many hours of effort by dedicated volunteers and Conservancy staff members secured generous donations for the Pennsylvania Land Protection Program. Under its campaign, the chapter also: safeguarded 592 acres at Goat Hill, the largest serpentine barrens in the East; added 72 acres to Thompson Wetlands; and doubled its holdings at Tannersville Cranberry Bog, a 344-acre national natural landmark bearing a relict boreal bog. In March of 1984, the drive met its $480,000 fund-raising goal, thereby ensuring the preservation of all or parts of six different jeopardized ecosystems.

Robert Simpson

Fisher, Thompson Wetlands

Heidi Wood

Blazing star and swallowtail, Hanging Prairie

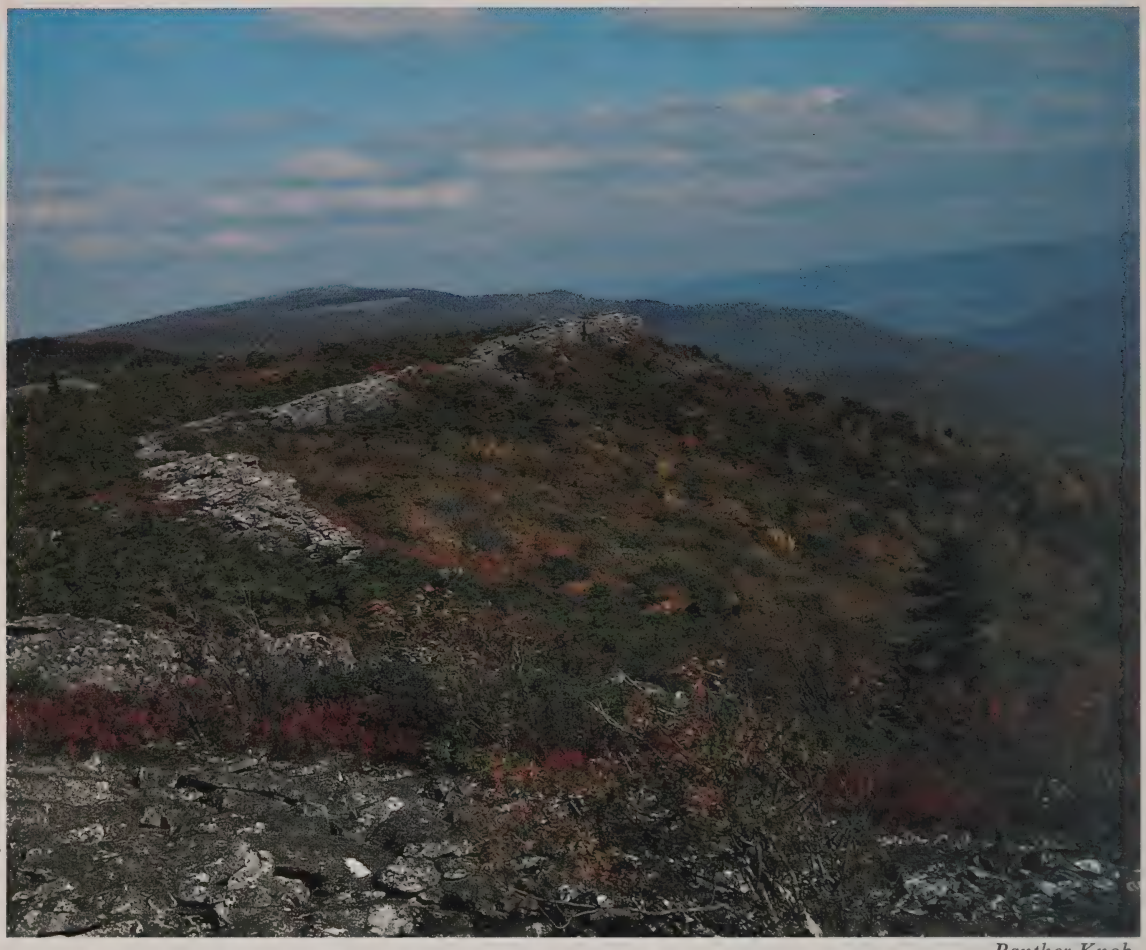
Chuck Olson

Lake Kelso, Cuyahoga Wetlands

Ohio Lands Forever Campaign

THE PHENOMENAL success of the Ohio Lands Forever Campaign, begun in 1981, spelled protection for 2,373 acres. Included among the preserved areas are Cave Hollow, one of the best deep caves in Ohio; Arcola Creek on the southern shore of Lake Erie; Pickerington Pond, critical habitat for myriad waterfowl species; several pristine prairies of the southern Ohio foothills; and Cuyahoga Wetlands, an expansive system of bog and marshland communities between Akron and Cleveland.

The Ohio Chapter successfully concluded its Ohio Lands Forever Campaign at the end of 1983, the year of its 25th anniversary. It not only exceeded the campaign's $1.4-million fund-raising goal but also obtained matching funds approaching $1 million. The final tally for monies raised through the statewide program for both acquisition and stewardship was $3,462,389. In addition, the chapter received gifts of land valued at over $1 million. The campaign demonstrated, without a doubt, that Conservancy members and the people of Ohio can "thing big" and achieve their goals.



Larry Morse

Panther Knob

West Virginia Natural Areas Campaign

WHEN THE PLEISTOCENE glaciers retreated in North America and the climate warmed, northern flora and fauna gradually disappeared from West Virginia and were replaced by southern species, except in a few puzzling places like Cranesville Swamp. Here, a small piece of what was once a vast boreal forest remains as a relict colony, its existence dependent on the extensive natural depression (or "frost pocket") in which it lies. Although the Conservancy owns and manages 318 acres of Cranesville, preservation of the entire wetland complex—and its host of "out-of-place" species—is incomplete.

Ensuring total protection of Cranesville Swamp is one objective of the West Virginia Chapter's new land-saving campaign, a recently launched one-year effort with a $200,000 price tag. Seven other threatened natural sites have been targeted for preservation, including a shale barren, a marl wetland, and Panther Knob—habitat for at least ten rare plant species and natural communities. Occurrences of three plants proposed for federal listing as endangered or threatened have also been charted for protection through the statewide campaign.

NEW PROJECTS

ALABAMA

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge—Addition—(Baldwin County). In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Conservancy has purchased an additional 838 acres of prime tidal marshland on Ft. Morgan Peninsula. Acquired with Richard King Mellon Foundation funds under the Rivers of the Deep South Program, the land has been transferred for inclusion in the federally owned refuge, as were more than 3,000 acres protected by the Conservancy in previous years.

ARKANSAS

Holland Bottoms (Lonoke and Pulaski Counties). The Conservancy has acquired 5,570 acres of wildlife-rich bottomlands—a fragment of the Lower Mississippi Valley's dwindling hardwood heritage. Prime habitat for breeding wood ducks and wintering migratory waterfowl, the area will be conveyed to the State of Arkansas for conservation management.

CALIFORNIA

Elkhorn Slough/Lillian Hohfield Preserve—Addition—(Monterey County). Three nationally endangered species—California least tern, brown pelican, and California clapper rail—find habitat in this northern coastal salt marsh, a rare natural community and key feeding and resting area for many migratory birds. In concert with the California Wildlife Conservation Board, the Conservancy recently protected an additional 616-acre tract, bringing its land-saving tally here to 1,071 acres. The California Field Office manages 354 acres; the state owns the rest. Both portions lie within Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Sanctuary.

Sand Ridge Wildflower Preserve—Addition—(Kern County). The only dune complex in the entire San Joaquin Valley, this steep hill of granitic sand lies along intermittent Caliente Creek. A ten-acre addition gained through an exchange transaction brings total preserve acreage to 127. Three endemics listed for protection by the California Native Plant Society occur here, as does the only protected population of Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*). The California Field Office manages the area.

Vina Plains—Addition—(Tehama County). Fifty miles north of Sacramento, where agriculture is the rule, this slightly undulating expanse still sports native annual grasses. A 403-acre addition to the 1,600-acre California "critical area" has been purchased at a bargain price. The preserve bears vernal pools and two plants under consideration for federal protection (*Euphorbia hooveri* and *Orcuttia pilosa*). The California Field Office, which manages the area with nearby Chico State University, is working to safeguard an additional 2,500 acres here.

CONNECTICUT

Benton Hill Fen—(Town of Sharon). This open calcareous fen, a wetland type uncommon in Connecticut, fosters the growth of an unusual and diverse flora. Six of its plant species are rare in the state. Under the ambitious Connecticut Critical Areas Program, the Conservancy has acquired 29 acres and a conservation easement on an additional four. The Connecticut Chapter manages the new preserve.

FLORIDA

Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve—Addition—(Liberty County). By means of a land exchange, the Conservancy has enlarged its preserve of jungly ravines, longleaf pine sandhills, and sheltered slopes by 3,262 acres. One of the temperate world's richest paleorefugia, the preserve (now 4,430 acres all told) supports several plants found nowhere else in the world: *Torreya taxifolia,* Florida yew, and *Croomia pauciflora.* The Florida Chapter manages.

Honorable Theodore Roosevelt Preserve—Addition—(Duvall County). A 17-acre purchase expands the popular Jacksonville-area preserve—broad tidal marshland and rolling forested hills near the St. Johns River—established in 1969 with a gift of land from the late Willie Browne. Its roster of habitats includes endangered Florida scrub, mesic flatwoods, basin marsh, maritime hammock, baygall, and an estuarine marsh supporting myriad wading birds. The Florida Chapter manages the 620-acre preserve.

Lower Suwannee River National Wildlife Refuge—Addition—(Levy County). Conservancy proj-

ects on the Suwannee date back to the early '70's and span 17,000 acres. An additional 12,836 acres, purchased from Buckeye Cellulose Corporation at a bargain price under the Rivers of the Deep South Program, extends the refuge along the river and the Gulf of Mexico. The vast sanctuary encompasses tidal salt marshes, floodplain forests, hydric hammocks, mesic flatwoods, uplands, and some 21 miles of the river's black waters—including summering grounds for a population of endangered West Indian manatees. The land will be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ILLINOIS

Berryville Shale Glade (Union County). Working with the state, the Conservancy has bought one of Illinois's two remaining shale glades—36 acres characterized by surfacing shale and a flora adapted to it. This typical "barrens" community sustains little bluestem, poverty grass, and an abundance of lichens. Blueberry, farkleberry, red cedar, stunted post oak, and jack oak abound upslope. The land will be managed by the Illinois Department of Conservation.

INDIANA

Kieweg Woods—Addition—(Vigo County). A 15-acre gift of land from Mr. and Mrs. Homer Kieweg further protects an exemplary mesic woodland dominated by old maples. Along with 31 acres donated by the Kiewegs in previous years, the tract will be conveyed to Indiana State University for administration by its Biological Sciences Department.

Knobstone Trail—Addition—(Washington County). The Conservancy has assisted the state in acquiring a 20-acre addition to complete its first long-distance backcountry trail. The 100-mile-long path rides the ridge of Indiana's most prominent geological feature, an escarpment of forested "knobstone shale" rife with upland fauna. The southern Indiana property will be transferred to the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Outdoor Recreation for management, as were 1,081 acres acquired here by the Conservancy in previous years.

Loon Lake (Steuben County). This unusual wetland community in extreme northeastern Indiana hosts more than ten plant species listed for protection in the state. Among them are swaying rush, cuckoo flower, and spike rush (all endangered) as well as purple bladderwort, small green wood orchid, and bog rosemary (all threatened). The recently purchased 70-acre natural area will be conveyed to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Nature Preserves.

KENTUCKY

Metropolis Lake—Addition—(McCracken County). A management agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority on ten acres enlarges the first natural area acquired with funds from the state's non-game tax check-off. Purchased in cooperation with the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission, which manages it, the existing 123-acre preserve encompasses a lake, surrounding cypress slough, and bottomland hardwoods on the Ohio River. It hosts five fish species listed as threatened in Kentucky: spotted sunfish, chain pickerel, taillight shiner, cypress minnow, and spotted gar.

MAINE

Bois Bubert Island—Addition—(Washington County). In 1978, the Conservancy received a gift of more than 900 acres on this wilderness island for addition to Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge. Recent purchase of a 20-acre inholding on the western shore buffers the sanctuary—significant for its stand of jack pine, its freshwater ponds, and its quaking bog. The tract will be conveyed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for management within Petit Manan, an important wintering site for bald eagles and home to eiders, black ducks, harbor seals, ruffed grouse, and woodcocks.

Larrabee Heath—Addition—(Washington County). Under its Maine Islands of Life Campaign, the Conservancy has purchased an additional 51 acres of this exemplary coastal plateau bog—a peatland community that occurs in North America only in a narrow band from Mt. Desert through maritime Canada. Ericaceous shrubs dominate on the heath, which is encircled by a readily definable "lagg" or moat. The Maine Chapter and the Maine Audubon Society recently dedicated the 272-acre Conservancy preserve to the late John Noyes Mead Howells, whose bequest funded its protection.

MICHIGAN

Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area—Addition—(Kalkaska County). A 40-acre addition brings Conservancy-protected lands here to 2,170 acres. The sanctuary—a stretch of swamp and marsh with a fragile bog—harbors bears, bobcats, river otters, massasauga rattlesnakes, and coyotes and is a nesting site for ospreys, loons, swans, and other birds. The tract will be conveyed to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Robert Simpson

Bobcat

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

What was perhaps the Southeast's most significant *unprotected* wilderness will be a new national wildlife refuge thanks to a 118,000-acre gift from The Prudential Insurance Company of America to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Appraised in excess of $50 million, this sweep of wetlands on North Carolina's Albemarle-Pamlico Peninsula takes in more than 100 miles of estuarine shoreline, a network of blackwater tributaries, fresh- and saltwater marshes, "pocosins" (evergreen-shrub bogs), and non-alluvial swamp forests unsurpassed in extensiveness and in size and age of trees. Topping its wildlife list are black bears, bobcats, alligators (at their northernmost limit), nationally endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, and a host of fish, shellfish, and waterfowl species.

Culminating long negotiations initiated by the North Carolina Nature Conservancy, this gift is one of the largest in the history of American conservation and a model of effective cooperation between the private and public sectors. The effort, which drew upon the Conservancy's strong relationships with both the corporate community and the federal government, is a triumph of the Conservancy's National Wetlands Conservation Project, launched in 1983 with funds from the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

MINNESOTA

Echo Trail (St. Louis County). Assisting the U.S. Forest Service and private conservation groups in protecting entrances to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the Conservancy has purchased six noncontiguous wooded parcels totaling 240 acres. The lands will be transferred for management within Superior National Forest.

Staffanson Prairie—Addition—(Douglas County). A 15-acre purchase enlarges the 80-acre preserve—remnant of a vast prairie system that once held sway in western Minnesota. The open grassland (both dry and mesic prairie communities) has a prairie pothole at its center. Big and little bluestem, sideoats grama, porcupine grass, and smooth aster flourish here, as do several nesting waterfowl species. The Minnesota Chapter manages the area.

MISSOURI

Missouri Prairie State Park—Addition—(Barton County). Since the late '70's, the Conservancy has assisted the state in saving more than 2,000 acres of prime grasslands—seven distinct natural communities, ranging from wet depressions and stream margins to dry shale prairie and sandstone outcrops. The rolling terrain is habitat for prairie chickens and upland sandpipers. With 80 acres recently acquired through a land exchange, our conservation achievement here totals 2,320 acres. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources manages the land.

NEBRASKA

Graves Ranch (Garden County). Twenty-five percent of the world's population of blowout bluebells (*Penstemon haydenii*), the Great Plains' most endangered plant, can be found on this 840-acre property north of Oshkosh. Suspected for some decades to be approaching extinction, this Nebraska sandhills endemic was located again in 1968; an estimated 4,500 individuals remain. The species is a dune "stabilizer" under study for use in preventing erosion. The Conservancy's Niobrara Valley land steward will manage the area.

NEW YORK

Thompson Pond—Addition—(Dutchess County). The purchase of 118 acres—ledge, talus slope, and woodland—extends this national natural landmark near Stissing Mountain. Its main feature is a 100-acre marsh-edged glacial lake, which attracts a variety of songbirds and mammals (bobcats, snowshoe hares, porcupines, and redback voles among them). The 428-acre preserve is managed by the Lower Hudson Chapter.

OHIO

Cuyahoga Wetlands (Geauga County). The Conservancy has purchased 147 acres between Akron and Cleveland—a wetland system valued for its pristine bog and marshland communities, its hemlock/white pine bog forest (unique in the state), and its high concentration of rare plants and animals (43 species listed for protection in Ohio). A project of the successful Ohio Lands Forever Campaign, the area will be managed by the Geauga County Park District, with which the Ohio Chapter is working to expand protection here.

Schwamberger Prairie/The Kitty Todd Preserve—Addition—(Lucas County). A 26-acre acquisition extends protection for the finest oak savanna in Ohio's "oak openings region" (an expanse of low-lying swell and swale sand ridges west of Toledo). The Ohio Chapter manages the 89-acre preserve, which boasts lance-leaved violets (*Viola lanceolata*), twisted yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris torta*), and 37 other plants listed as endangered or threatened in the state.

Strait Creek Prairie Bluffs (Pike County). A thriving population of bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*), listed as endangered in Ohio, joins lesser ladies' tresses, narrow-leaved bluets, western sunflower (all threatened), and nine other rare plant species on this 90-acre prairie in the southern portion of the state. The Ohio Chapter manages the new preserve.

OREGON

Bastendorf Bog (Coos County). Lodged only 100 yards from the Pacific Ocean, this coastal sphagnum bog bears the state's largest population of giant western bog lilies (*Lilium occidentale*)—a species under consideration for federal listing. A project of the Katharine Ordway Endangered Species Conservation Program *and* the Oregon Critical Areas Program, the recent ten-acre purchase was funded by the Elmer Feldenheimer Land Preservation Fund. It will be managed by the Oregon Chapter and Oregon State Parks, with which the Conservancy is working to safeguard an adjacent tract.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Flat Creek Natural Area—Forty-Acre Rock Addition—(Lancaster County). A 15-acre purchase completes this four-year, 335-acre project—a new national natural landmark—and protects one of the largest granite outcrops in South Carolina. "Forty-Acre Rock" promotes the growth of several plants that are candidates for federal listing, in-

cluding pool sprite, Puck's orpine, and open-ground whitlow-grass. Portions of the area are managed by the Conservancy, portions by the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department's Heritage Trust Program.

Shealy's Pond (Lexington County). Under its Katharine Ordway Endangered Species Conservation Program, the Conservancy has purchased 41 acres bearing the state's most vigorous and extensive stand of Atlantic white cedars. This unusual bog community rings a three-acre pond and flanks its feeder stream, Scouter Creek. Rayner's huckleberry (*Vaccinium sempervirens*), a candidate for federal listing, grows here as do several plants of statewide concern and three that are very rare in the coastal plain of South Carolina. The South Carolina Nature Conservancy manages.

TENNESSEE

Goose Pond—Addition—(Grundy County). A cooperative management agreement with the landowners of a 96-acre marshland enlarges protected breeding habitat for four birds listed as threatened or endangered in the state by the Tennessee Natural Heritage Program: American bitterns, least bitterns, purple gallinules, and king rails. Set in uplands at the foot of the Cumberland Plateau's western escarpment, the area exemplifies a community type that is extremely rare for this physiographic province.

Hubbard's Cave (Warren County). More nationally endangered gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*) winter in this single cave than in all other Tennessee caves combined. Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*), also endangered, occur as well. Conservancy purchase of 50 acres, after long negotiations, has secured the habitat, identified by both the Tennessee Valley Authority Regional Natural Heritage Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as extremely significant. The Tennessee Chapter will manage the preserve, a project of the Katharine Ordway Endangered Species Conservation Program.

Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge—Addition—(Lauderdale County). In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Conservancy has acquired 638 acres of wildlife-rich bottomlands (primarily oak/cypress forest) along the Hatchie—a state-designated scenic river. The property is slated for addition to the federal refuge near the Mississippi River. The Tennessee Chapter protected the sanctuary's 7.5-acre headquarters site in 1982.

UTAH

Layton Marsh (Davis County). The Conservancy has purchased an extensive wetland on the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake, a habitat little-changed since Jim Bridger made his historic journey here in 1824. The 1,192-acre property is part of a marsh complex that hosts 30 percent of the Pacific Flyway's waterfowl. Birds using the area include multitudes of whistling swans and white-faced ibises—and large populations of great white pelicans, phalaropes, California gulls, avocets, stilts, long-billed curlews, and numerous other shorebirds and colonial nesting species. The land will be managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

VIRGINIA

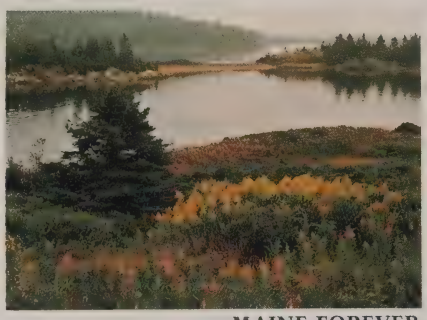
Crooked Creek Wildlife Management Area—Addition—(Carroll County). On behalf of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Conservancy has purchased 64 acres embracing a portion of Crooked Creek, a scenic trout stream in the Blue Ridge Mountains. With this addition, protected acreage here reaches 1,660. The parcel will be conveyed to the Commonwealth of Virginia for management.

WEST VIRGINIA

Monongahela National Forest—Addition—(Webster County). Enriching a history of cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the Conservancy purchased the last major private inholding in the Monongahela: 904 acres fronting the Cranberry River for over a mile. By acting expeditiously, the West Virginia Chapter averted cabin-site development along the water and ensured access to the adjoining Cranberry Wilderness. The area has been transferred to the Forest Service.

WISCONSIN

Brule River—Addition—(Douglas County). The gift of a conservation easement on 28 wooded acres brings Conservancy-protected lands in the upper watershed of this northern Wisconsin river to 4,887 acres. Nine major biotic communities survive here in proximity, including virgin pine forests, cedar swamps, alder thickets, lowland hardwoods, oak and pine barrens, aspen woods. The Wisconsin Chapter has gained easements on 96 percent of its nine-mile-long project area—the wildest, most ecologically diverse stretch in the river's run north to Lake Superior.



MAINE FOREVER
A Guide to Nature Conservancy Preserves in Maine

MAINE PRESERVE GUIDE

The Nature Conservancy took title to its first preserve in Maine in 1956 under the volunteer leadership of Rachel Carson. Today, nearly three decades later, the Maine Chapter owns and manages more than 70 outstanding natural areas—one-tenth of the Conservancy's preserves nationwide.

The chapter's preserves stretch from the rock-bound seacoast to the great north woods and include some of the state's best remaining wilderness—expansive peatlands, old-growth forests, mountaintops, and dozens of coastal islands. In fact, The Nature Conservancy is the largest private owner of coastal islands in the state.

Maine Forever, the chapter's first comprehensive preserve guide, explores the natural history of 55 spectacular Conservancy-owned natural areas throughout the state. The 96-page book features descriptions, maps, and directions to each preserve, plus an introductory section on some of the state's most endangered natural elements. The crisp text is liberally illustrated with original drawings and includes full-page color photographs by Eliot Porter and others.

Maine Forever is designed to be as useful in the field as it is elegant in the house. The book's waterproof soft cover and spiral binding make it a perfect companion on trips to these preserves—whether by boat or on foot. An excellent gift for anyone who shares a love for the Pine Tree State, the book is available to Nature Conservancy members at the special discount price of $12.45 ($11.50 per book for orders of two or more), which includes all postage and handling. To order, send your check to: The Nature Conservancy, Maine Chapter, 10 Federal Street, Brunswick, Maine 04011.

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*will match selected projects only

Annual Meeting 1984

Deriving its name from the tidal rise and fall of watercourses that empty into the Chesapeake Bay, the Tidewater region of Virginia is rich in history and natural attractions. It was an ideal location for the Conservancy's 34th Annual Meeting and Conference held in Norfolk over the third weekend of September.

More than 400 Conservancy members from across the country attended the five-day event. Meetings featured a slide-illustrated report of the year's activities by Conservancy President Bill Blair, as well as film screenings and lectures. At the Annual Awards Banquet honoring volunteers and special guests, author William W. Warner (*Beautiful Swimmers*) introduced speaker James C. Wheat, Jr., Chairman of WFS Financial Corporation and a key figure in the creation of the Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve. (Award winners are listed in the September/October 1984 *News*.) An "idea exchange luncheon," during which members met with staff to discuss Conservancy programs and philosophies, was followed by a sunset "Tidewater Jamboree." Participants donned Conservancy sailor caps to feast on steamed shrimp and roasted oysters and to dance to the music of an authentic sea-chanty band.

The highlight of every Conservancy annual meeting is the opportunity to see, first-hand, lands we have been integral in saving. Afternoon and all-day field trips took members to Currituck Outer Banks, the Great Dismal Swamp, Merchants Mill Pond State Park, Nags Head Woods (a maritime-forest preserve lodged among the back barrier dunes of North Carolina's Outer Banks) and the Virginia Coast Reserve—36,000 acres of teeming marshes, sandy beaches, and pine forests. The Reserve encompasses all or part of 13 barrier islands.

Mark your calendars for the 1985 Annual Meeting and Conference scheduled to take place between October 2 and 7 in Orlando, Florida. Post-conference treks will be held from October 7 to 9. Field trips "in the works" will take in areas on both Florida coasts and in the state's Panhandle. Beginning May 1, the national office will be providing full information and registration packets. Simply write to the Meeting Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy, 1800 N. Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

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NEXT IN THE NEWS:
THE CENTRAL FLYWAY

The January/February issue brings you travel plans for millions of birds. The *News* explores habitats from the Texas Gulf Coast to the Dakota prairies—a corridor of wetlands we're working to protect.

COTTAGES AVAILABLE AT MILE HI

Modern housekeeping cottages overlooking a mountain creek are available for rental yearround at the Conservancy's Mile Hi Ranch. Located 90 miles southeast of Tucson in the Huachuca Mountains, the Mile Hi stretches across the mouth of Ramsey Canyon, one of the most lovely and biologically diverse canyons in southern Arizona.

To arrange a visit or obtain a brochure and birdlist, write: The Mile Hi, RR 1, Box 84E, Hereford, Arizona 85615. Phone: (602) 378-2785.

FIELD COURSES OFFERED IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Lying at the interface between Oregon's Cascade Range and the Great Basin, the Conservancy's Katharine Ordway Sycan Marsh Preserve will be the site next June and July (1985) of beginning and advanced seven- and ten-day field courses. Studies will embrace botany, general natural history, and ornithology. Excursions will take in vast alkaline lakes, volcanic mountains, sage deserts, forests of pine and fir, and freshwater marshes hosting some 200 breeding greater sandhill cranes.

Transportation, meals, and facilities (tents) for staff and nine participants per session will be provided. Cost: seven-day/$700, ten-day/$850. For further information, contact: Sycan Education, The Nature Conservancy, 1234 N.W. 25th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97210. Phone: (503) 228-9561.

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